



January Newsletter 2017

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Research	Richard Ramirez
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TEGA	Vacant
Student Activities	Trent Walters
Membership	Vacant
Newsletter	Matt Songe



HAPPY NEW YEAR

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President's Notes

January 2017

Early on in my career I learned a useful lesson: if you don't know, just ask someone. It is a lesson I learned while in college over and over again - the hard way. Countless times I would find myself in class scratching my head, unsure of what the professor was trying to tell me, only to arrive to exam day with a half-baked idea of the concept I was expected to understand. It is sometimes astounding to me that I could earn a degree that way. I was so worried a professor would find my questions bothersome, or find me ignorant and uneducated. What I realize now is that my fears were not only unfounded, but the exact opposite of reality. I should have asked and saved myself so much anguish and even found favor in the eyes of the professors. But who do I go to now that I'm not in school anymore? I do have plenty of resources due to my position in sales, working closely with many manufacturers directly. These conversations help keep me educated on the products I sell, but what if I want to get a different perspective? That's where a community comes in - that is your local ASHRAE chapter.

Your chapter is here ready to serve you in a variety of ways, but perhaps the most meaningful way your chapter can serve you is by giving you regular lines of communication with a range of other professionals. You get to make connections and talk - and learn from - contractors, engineers, and sales professionals. You even get the opportunity to check in with your competition.

Yes, I'm aware that we're growing increasingly global and our communities are growing increasingly virtual. But does a phone call or email properly replace a handshake and a conversation over a shared meal? By no means. Do you gain more from a brief digital transaction or from direct human interaction? With no exceptions, direct human interaction wins.

You may not be a social butterfly - I know I'm not. But you, as a professional owe it to yourself to be your best. And if you're not engaged in a community that enables you and encourages you to learn and grow, then you're simply not the best you can be and you're missing the best opportunity you have to get better at what you do. Come join us for a meeting and give it a shot. We're here ready for you, your questions, and your growth. Come ask.

Regards,
Scott Gentry
ASHRAE Mobile Chapter President



December Chapter Recap

Chapter Events:

The Holidays are over and the new year is in full swing. We would like to thank everyone who attended the 2016 Chapter Christmas Party at the 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center. Everyone was in good spirits for the holidays and came together for some good food, drink, and music. Thanks to your donations, the Chapter was able to raise \$600.00 that will be split between the Ronald McDonald House and the Penelope House. We are already looking forward to this years Christmas party and are taking suggestions for a location. The 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center is already booked to host a Smithsonian exhibit so we're looking for another location to host this year's Christmas party.

We would like to extend a big **THANK YOU** to our sponsors for the Christmas Party:

Mobile Gas, A Sempra Company
Mingledorff's
Alabama Controls
Stephens Mechanical Engineering
T. Batchelor and Son Inc.
Goram Mechanical
Alabama Power
Tim Morales Inc.
James M. Pleasants Company



Chapter Calendar

February Facility Tour:

Location: Wallace & Bankhead Tunnel

Date: February 8, 2017

Time: 11:00 am – 2 pm

Host: City of Mobile

Come see the ventilation system, construction, and traffic management of our very own tunnels.

Tour is limited to 30 people. Sign-up early. First come first serve. Box lunches will be provided. Parking arrangements to be sent out prior to event. Program begins with lunch and 15 minute presentation. Extensive walking will be required. We will see the inner workings of the tunnel ventilation and construction. Tour consist of both tunnels.

Sponsor Appreciation Dinner:

BY INVITATION ONLY

Location: TBD

Date: March 16, 2017

Time: TBD

Cost: Free

Guest: Ginger Scoggins, PE, Society Vice President

Come join us for dinner as an appreciation of your long devotion and support to ASHRAE and the Mobile Chapter.

Consulting Engineer Round Table Breakfast:

BY INVITATION ONLY

Location: TBD

Date: March 17, 2017

Time: TBD

Cost: Free meeting, Dutch meal

Guest: Ginger Scoggins, PE, Society Vice President

Round table breakfast with the society Vice President

A survey will be sent out to local consulting engineers for questions they would like to ask the society president. Ginger will be able to provide great insight into ASHRAE operations, future of ASHRAE, and how new standards will affect industry.



Chapter Calendar

March Meeting:

Location: Wintzell's Oyster House, Downtown Mobile

Date: March 17, 2017

Time: 11:00 am – 12:45 pm

Speaker: Ginger Scoggins, PE, Society Vice President

Topic TBD

Ginger Scoggins, P.E., is president, Engineered Designs, Raleigh, N.C. which she co-founded in 1997. She received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Tennessee Technological University in 1986. She formerly served on the Board of Directors as Region IV director and regional chair and is a recipient of an Exceptional Service and a Distinguished Service Award. As a vice president, Scoggins is a member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee and serves as vice chair of Technology Council.

April Meeting:

Location: Wintzell's Oyster House, Downtown Mobile

Date: April 12, 2017

Time: 11:00 am – 12:45 pm

Speaker: Andrew Sorenson

Textile Air Dispersion Design and Applications

The presentation will go in depth on proper Textile Air dispersion design, specification, installation considerations. The presenter will also provide an overview of where textile air dispersion products can be applied and the latest in air dispersion technologies.

2017 ASHRAE 3rd Annual Charity Golf Invitational:

Location: Timber Creek Golf Course

Date: April 14, 2017

Time: 8:00 am

Cost: TBD

Four man team scramble

Benefits will go to Ransom Ministries and ASHRAE RP

We look forward to seeing everyone at these events and we appreciate your support! Please visit our website (<http://mobileashrae.weebly.com>) for updated information on chapter functions and meetings!



Member Spotlight

January 2017

A Review of the Refrigeration Career of Kenneth Eugene Buck

With consistent effort comes success. Case in point, Ken Buck. Within the industries of air conditioning and refrigeration, you would be hard pressed to find anyone else locally, or nationally for that matter, who has accomplished as much as this farmer from Irvington, AL.

Born in 1925, Ken Buck grew up in the Great Depression as the middle child of 13 children. With his father's passing in 1932, the Buck family was forced to do anything they could to survive in Arkansas. For Ken the economic situation required him to deliver papers, sell peanuts, cut grass, deliver groceries, trap animals for furs, and nearly anything else a kid could do to earn a little money. This work ethic stayed with Ken through the rest of his career.

Although Ken wanted to join the Marines with his buddies, at the age of 17 he enlisted in the Coast Guard. World War II led to Ken sustaining injuries that hospitalized him, ultimately ending up in the Old Marine Hospital in Mobile, AL. It was in Mobile that his military career came to a close in 1944.

Ken stayed in Mobile, first working at a bicycle repair shop located near the entrance to the Alabama Dry Docks, where his brother Eddie had taken a job. It was during this time that he met his wife, Jean. The two married shortly after meeting and remained happily married for 68 years. During his employment in the bicycle shop, Ken attended night classes at Murphy High School, where he was able to earn his high school diploma and take part in refrigeration training offered to veterans.

Upon completion of the training program, Ken began his career in the refrigeration industry. Experiences on Liberty ships quickly taught Ken mastery of the refrigeration trade, with much of his expertise coming from on-the-job training and self-education. He was employed by several different refrigeration companies until 1953, when he co-founded Mobile Refrigeration Company. It was through his company that his career began to develop.

At Mobile Refrigeration Company, Ken was able to design and build refrigeration systems throughout the south, including a large number of systems in Bayou La Batre, AL. A small fishing village, Bayou La Batre came to prominence in the fishing industry due in large part to refrigeration. Refrigeration allowed fishing operations to catch more and stay out at sea longer. Ken remembers working on some of the world's first refrigerated shrimp boats, which he says used the Mingledorff's shrimp boat refrigeration system. It also made it possible to transport fresh seafood farther.



Member Spotlight

During his time with Mobile Refrigeration Company, Ken focused on refrigeration, but air conditioning was also a small part of his business. In 1950, there was very little air conditioning around, but it was really starting to take off. Ken recalls, "I built a house in 1949-1950 and I put central heating in it, but no air conditioning. Later, I got a Carrier compressor and made my own refrigeration circuit. The 60,000 BTU furnace was in the basement, with duct running up to the attic. I mounted the evaporator coil in the duct in the attic. The compressor was in the garage, and the condensing coil was outside. It wasn't long before that became the norm, and we did a number of air conditioners in houses."

Ken also installed the first air conditioner in the Dew Drop Inn, Mobile's oldest restaurant. During the close of the '50s, Ken's business took jobs refrigerating and air conditioning the numerous offshore oil rigs that were being built as well.

In 1957, Ken and several others involved in the refrigeration industry came together to form a Mobile chapter of ASRE, the American Society of Refrigeration Engineers. Prior to that time, any ASRE members in Mobile belonged to chapters in other cities or were members at large. And in 1959, less than two years after founding the chapter, ASRE merged with ASHAE (American Society of Heating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) to form ASHRAE.

The new ASHRAE chapter started small, but grew to include many engineers, manufacturer's reps, equipment dealers, installers, and facility managers. Ken took the role of chapter president in 1961. Ken noted the significance of ASHRAE, saying, "We all did our own thing and didn't talk to each other, so these organizations brought all these people together so that we could come up with procedures and good operating practices. The primary benefit of being a member was the exchange of knowledge."

ASHRAE fostered industry learning through regular meetings, several of which were field trips to visit places like refineries, chemical plants, and other sites of interest. They were even able to tour the ventilation system of the Wallace Tunnel, which carries Interstate 10 from downtown Mobile, under the Mobile River, and onto Blakeley Island.

With Mobile Refrigeration Company consistently focused on refrigeration, the issue of refrigerant safety came to be a concern in the late sixties. Through legislation and industry-wide discussion, the International Institute of Ammonia Refrigeration, or IIAR, came to exist. Ken recalls that it was a fight over whether to make all compressor rooms explosion proof that actually brought the industry together. Ken is a charter member of IIAR and an honorary life member.

Mobile Refrigeration Company continued to grow and became a larger player in the industry, and to accompany that growth came a new name: Engineered Refrigeration Systems, Inc. In December 2004 Ken retired from his positions as President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Engineered Refrigeration Systems. At that time the company was purchased and became known as CIMCO Refrigeration.



Member Spotlight

With this success, Ken decided in 1972 to leave the City of Mobile and move to Irvington, a small town southwest of Mobile. It was there that Ken began to shift his activities from refrigeration to farming, which occupies his time to this day. Now Buck grows corn, peaches, and pecans on 135 acres in south Mobile County. Similar to his success in refrigeration, Ken has achieved success in farming. He has impacted and advanced the farming world in south Alabama as much as anyone. This personal success and positive impact on the industry reflects back to one of Ken’s philosophies: “I don’t think that it is right to make your living at something and not try to improve the overall industry.”

Ken says, “In the old days you’d milk the cow and then put the milk down in the well – that was refrigeration back then.” Things in the refrigeration world have changed dramatically since that practice was common, but Ken exemplifies one thing that has not – and will not – ever change: consistent hard work and care for what you do will always result in success.